



## **Roanoke County Fire and Rescue will participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Firefighter Safety Stand Down**

*This year's focus is on emergency vehicle safety*

Building on the success of the first National Firefighter Safety Stand Down in 2005, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department have called for a second stand down to be held starting Wednesday, June 21, 2006, and continued until all personnel and duty nights have been covered. Last year, an estimated 10,000 fire departments including Roanoke County Fire and Rescue participated in the National Firefighter Safety Stand Down across the country.

"Sadly, 106 fire fighters died in the line of duty last year. Since many of the accidents occurred in department vehicles, this year's focus is a stand down on emergency vehicle safety. "We must take dramatic steps to reduce the alarmingly high fire fighter death and injury rates," said IAFC President Chief Bill Killen. "While firefighter safety must be part of everyday life in the fire service, the Safety Stand Down raises awareness of the issue and calls national attention to the unacceptable number of firefighter line-of-duty deaths."

### ***What is a stand down?***

*A stand down is a method used by the military to correct an issue that has been identified as a problem throughout its ranks. This stand down is to raise the level of awareness toward fire fighter safety and call attention to the unacceptable number of deaths and injuries plaguing fire departments.*